

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Old Town Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

River Quay

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Boundaries as shown on Site Plan Map (Item #10)

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#5 - Hon. Richard L. Bolling

STATE

Missouri 64105

CODE  
29

COUNTY  
Jackson

CODE  
095

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Multiple Ownership (see Continuation Sheets)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Recorder of Deeds  
Jackson County Courthouse, Kansas City Annex

STREET & NUMBER

415 East 12th Street

CITY, TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64106

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Owners of significant structures.

(Numbers refer to locations on site plan map)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Kansas City, Missouri<br>Finance Department<br>414 E. 12th Street<br>Kansas City, MO 64106  | 10. Riverside Properties<br>911 Main - Room 1730<br>Kansas City, MO 64105                                      |
| 2. Research Hospital and Medical Center<br>Attn: Controller<br>2316 E. Meyer Blvd.<br>Kansas City, MO 64132                                    | 12. Riverside Properties<br>911 Main - Room 1730<br>Kansas City, MO 64105                                      |
| 3. Gillis Trustees<br>c/o Scarritt Estate Co.<br>818 Grand - Room 1001<br>Kansas City, MO 64106  | 13. Kansas City Rescue Mission<br>P.O. Box 527<br>Kansas City, MO 64141  |
| 4. Edgar E. Herzmark<br>P.O. Box 313<br>Shawnee Mission, KS 66201  | 14. Frank and Anna Mae Pisciotto<br>1038 N. Woodland Court<br>Kansas City, MO 64118                            |
| 6. Conrad Pflumm et al.<br>505 Walnut St.<br>Kansas City, MO 64106   | 15. Vernita Hutchings et al.<br>c/o H. B. Hutchings<br>1228 W. 57th St.<br>Kansas City, MO 64113               |
| 7. Robert Lewellyn et al.<br>c/o Richard M. Maloney<br>312 Markey Road<br>Belton, MO 64012   | 16. Benanti Trust<br>c/o Columbia Union National<br>Bank Trust Dept.<br>P.O. Box 2629<br>Kansas City, MO 64142 |
| 8. The Planter Seed Co.<br>513 Walnut St.<br>Kansas City, MO 64106   | 19. Gus and Eudora Nichols<br>3435 Coleman Road<br>Kansas City, MO 64110                                       |
| 9. The Planter Seed Co.<br>513 Walnut St.<br>Kansas City, MO 64106<br>and<br>Goodwill Industries<br>1817 Campbell St.<br>Kansas City, MO 64108 | 20. Earl and Florence Juul<br>c/o Index Store Fixture Co.<br>521 Main Street<br>Kansas City, MO 64106          |
|  | 24. William Volker and Co.<br>P.O. Box 529<br>Burlingame, CA 94010   |

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25. Louis and Gertrude Kaplan c/o George Gisler 9229 Ward Parkway - Suite 229 Kansas City, MO 64114	40.	Clarence & Grace Barnes 310 Delaware Street Kansas City, MO 64105		
27. Jon and Patricia Henry 1511 W. 9th Street Kansas City, MO 64101	41.	Frances Cotton et al. c/o Upjohn W. Bryant 6701 Valley Road Kansas City, MO 64113		
28. Victoria Station Inc. 150 Chestnut Street San Francisco, CA 94111	45.	Riverside Properties 911 Main - Room 1730 Kansas City, MO 64105		
32. Beth Lyon 800 N. Atlantic Kansas City, MO 64116	51.	PFC Corporation P.O. Box 7248 Kansas City, MO 64117		
34. Sterling and Mary Evans 1320 Manhiem Road Kansas City, MO 64104	52.	Vivian Caresio 3725 N.E. 47th Street Kansas City, MO 64117		
35. William and Anna Birenboim Estate c/o M. L. Friedman 2516 W. 69th Street Shawnee Mission, KS 66208	53.	Sidney and Edith Glaser 417 Delaware Street Kansas City, MO 64106		
36. William and Anna Birenboim Estate c/o M. L. Friedman 2516 W. 69th Street Shawnee Mission, KS 66208	54.	PFC Corporation P.O. Box 7248 Kansas City, MO 64113		
37. Gus and Eudora Nichols 529 Main Street Kansas City, MO 64105	57.	Riverside Properties, Inc. 911 Main - Room 1730 Kansas City, MO 64105		
38. Clarence & Grace Barnes 310 Delaware Street Kansas City, MO 64105	58.	Harry and Marie Oliver 429 Delaware Street Kansas City, MO 64105		
39. Frances Cotton et al. c/o Upjohn W. Bryant 6701 Valley Road Kansas City, MO 64113	60.	Marion and Phyllis Trozollo 1000 Westover Road Kansas City, MO 64113		
	61.	Tranin Investment Co. 2915 Southwest Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64108		

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- 63. Jacob H. Warger and  
Alice McFarland  
511 Delaware Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105
- 65. Merchants Produce Bank  
c/o Merchants Investor Inc.  
531 Walnut Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106
- 67. Warner Enterprises, Inc.  
517 Delaware Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105
- 68. National Furniture Co.  
115 West 5th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105
- 70. Jack and Frances Taylor  
c/o Jax Fixture & Supply Co.  
200 W. 5th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105
- 71. Earl & Florence Juul  
c/o Index Store Fixture Co.  
521 Main Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106

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Owners of nonconforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district.

(Numbers refer to locations on site plan map)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 5. Riverside Properties<br>911 Main - Room 1730<br>Kansas City, MO 64105                       | 31. Beth Lyon<br>800 N. Atlantic Street<br>Kansas City, MO 64116                                       |
| 11. William and Virginia Konomos<br>3015 Brighton Avenue<br>Kansas City, MO 64128              | 33. Riverside Properties<br>911 Main - Room 1730<br>Kansas City, MO 64105                              |
| 17. Gus and Eudora Nichols<br>3435 Coleman Road<br>Kansas City, MO 64110                       | 42. Philip W. Cotton, Jr., et al.<br>c/o Upjohn W. Bryant<br>6701 Valley Road<br>Kansas City, MO 64113 |
| 18. Gus and Eudora Nichols<br>3435 Coleman Road<br>Kansas City, MO 64110                       | 43. Cirese Investment Co., Inc.<br>3411 East 9th Street<br>Kansas City, MO 64124                       |
| 21. Kansas City, Missouri<br>Finance Department<br>414 E. 12th Street<br>Kansas City, MO 64106 | 44. Dan Aron<br>1202 W. 46th Street<br>Kansas City, MO 64112   |
| 22. Kansas City, Missouri<br>Finance Department<br>414 E. 12th Street<br>Kansas City, MO 64106 | 46. Dan Aron<br>1202 W. 46th Street<br>Kansas City, MO 64112   |
| 23. Kansas City, Missouri<br>Finance Department<br>414 E. 12th Street<br>Kansas City, MO 64106 | 47. Cirese Investment Co., Inc.<br>3411 E. 9th Street<br>Kansas City, MO 64124                         |
| 26. William Volker & Co.<br>P.O. Box 529<br>Burlingame, CA 94010                               | 48. Riverside Properties<br>911 Main - Room 1730<br>Kansas City, MO 64105                              |
| 30. Victoria Station Inc.<br>150 Chestnut Street<br>San Francisco, CA 94111                    | 49. Riverside Properties<br>911 Main - Room 1730<br>Kansas City, MO 64105                              |

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50. Angelo and Rosi Vitale  
3800 Truman Road  
Kansas City, MO 64127
55. Sidney & Edith Glaser  
417 Delaware Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105
56. PFC Corp., Inc.  
P.O. Box 7248  
Kansas City, MO 64113
59. Harry and Marie Oliver  
429 Delaware Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105
62. Marion & Phyllis Trozollo  
1000 Westover Road  
Kansas City, MO 64113
64. Merchants Produce Bank  
c/o Merchants Investor Inc.  
531 Walnut Street  
Kansas City, MO 64106
66. Jacob H. Warger and  
Alice McFarland  
511 Delaware Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105
69. National Furniture Co.  
115 West 5th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64105

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2. The Need for the Preservation of Kansas City's Architectural Heritage  
1969 local  
Kansas City Chapter, American Institute of Architects  
917 West 43rd Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
3. Preliminary Inventory of Architecture and Historic Sites of Kansas City, Missouri  
1974 local  
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri  
City Hall - 26th Floor, E.  
414 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
4. Historic Kansas City Architecture  
1975 local  
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri  
City Hall - 26th Floor, E.  
414 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
5. Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri Survey  
1977 local  
Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri  
City Hall - 26th Floor, E.  
414 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106
6. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1977 state  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Old Town District comprises some 10 blocks and 5 partial blocks, plus the Public Market area, a space that originally comprised 8 blocks. The district is located in the Riverfront District of Kansas City, Missouri, and is situated in the general vicinity of Grand and Missouri Avenues, Wyandotte and Second Streets.

The district is plotted with streets that run roughly at right angles and parallel to the Missouri River at the north, reflecting the early importance of the river to the district.

Originally, Main and Delaware Streets and Grand Avenue were natural ravines between towering bluffs immediately south of the river. The development of the district as a commercial center depended on changing the topography significantly. Thus in the 1850-1860s, the bluffs were graded, streets cut, and ravines filled.

Physical barriers help isolate and define the area. On the south, Sixth Street has been turned into an expressway, the Sixth Street Trafficway. The Missouri River is to the north. On the eastern edge of the district is the entrance for the ASB Bridge and the Broadway Bridge entrance delineates the far western boundary.

The district contains approximately 58 structures of various age and design. Fifty two of these buildings are included for nomination because of their architectural and/or historical importance. The district has a long history as a commercial area and the buildings reflect that use. The only residential utilization consist of living quarters above the stores.

Typically, the buildings are constructed near the street line with the long axis of the building at right angles to the street. Most of the buildings are rectangular in plan. The structures vary in size from two to six stories. All are flat roofed with the exception of the hip roofed Board of Trade Building (site #61). When visible, the foundations consist usually of random or coursed rubble limestone. The primary building material is brick. Although the buildings vary in size and design, many of them are narrow, rectangular structures with facades close to the street, and multi-storied with living quarters often included above the business portion. Several of the buildings are embellished by rich stone and brick work and cast iron facades. Most of the buildings date from c. 1870-1890. The architects and builders of most of the structures are unknown.

Delaware Street from Fifth to Second Streets is the only section of the Old Town District that retains enough pre-1890 structures to provide a street scene reminiscent of the Nineteenth Century. This area has been spared an excess of intrusion and demolition, although numerous structures have had street-level facade alterations and removal of elaborate cornices. Other structures of importance are scattered in the district, being separated by intrusion and much vacant land.

A predominant feature of the area is the Public Market (site #1). It occupies, with its facilities and parking, approximately 10 acres. The market has existed since 1857 as a center for distribution of fresh produce and continues to be one



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of the largest wholesale fruit and vegetable markets in the United States.<sup>2</sup> Farmers rent stalls to sell their products and the concept has grown in popularity with local shoppers.

In 1972 an attempt was made to revitalize the area and turn it into a center for small shops, restaurants, and family entertainment. The area was given the name "River Quay" for promotional purposes. The success of that venture was short-lived for numerous reasons including financial problems, a profusion of drinking establishments, and possible underworld involvement.

The area currently has a large number of vacant buildings, especially since the demise of the River Quay project. A fairly substantial amount of heavy and light industry has been a constant factor in the district, such as warehouses and distribution companies.

The historic district includes the following significant structures (numbers refer to location on the site plan map):

- 1 (A). City Market, Retail Building, northwest corner, Fifth and Walnut Streets, 1939-1940, architect: Frederick Gunn. This modernistic two-story building has mezzanine floors at each end. A canopy extends over the sidewalk on three sides of the building.
- 1 (B). City Market, South Wholesale Building, Main Street between Third and Walnut Streets, 1939-1940, architect: Frederick Gunn. This three-story, modernistic building has wall panels of glass blocks and fluted pilaster decorations. It is in good condition.
- 1 (C). City Market, Central Wholesale Building, Main Street between Third and Walnut Streets, 1939-1940, architect: Frederick Gunn. This building is of identical design to site #1B.
- 1 (D). City Market, Vita's Cafe, 301 Main Street, ca. 1960. This contemporary one-story building has a pitched roof and brick walls. It is in good condition.
- 1 (E). City Market, North Wholesale Building, Third Street between Main and Walnut Streets, 1939-1940, architect: Frederick Gunn. This building is of identical design to site #1B.
- 1 (F, G, H). City Market, Farmers Market Area, Main Street to Walnut Streets, Third to Fifth Streets, 1939-1940, architect: Frederick Gunn. Three canopy covered concrete platforms with steel frames that occupy the central portion of the market.
2. Merchants Bank Building, 427-29 Walnut Street, 1920, architects: Greenbaum and Hardy, builder: Hoffman Construction Company. This two-story brick building has a facade of plate glass and green verde marble. It is in good condition and retains its original integrity.

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3. Gillis Building, 504-506-508 Walnut Street and 15-25 East Fifth Street, 1926, architects: Siemens and Kurfiss, builder: James E. Taylor. The first floor facade of this two-story tapestry brick building has been altered. The structure retains its original integrity and is in good condition.
4. Oldham Hotel (Red Lantern Lounge), 105 East Fifth Street and 501 Walnut Street, 1916, architects: Smith, Rea, Lovitt. This five-story building is of tapestry brick design. The first floor facade has been surfaced with wood paneling.
6. Harnden Seed Company (Midwest Seed Company), 505 Walnut Street, 1917. This three-story tapestry brick designed building is intact and in excellent condition.
7. Horton's Oyster and Chop House (Dallas County Line), 507 Walnut Street, ca. 1879. This three-story building is the only example of Queen Anne style design in the district. It is in good condition and retains its original integrity.
8. Swope Building (Planters Seed Co.), 509-13 Walnut Street, ca. 1880. The facade of this two-story brick building has been completely altered.
9. Matt Foster Commission House (Planter's Seed Co. and Goodwill Thrift Store), 515-517 Walnut Street, ca. 1883. This one-story brick building has a very plain facade. One and a half stories of the building were removed in 1939.
10. Mullet Brothers Photographic Supply Company, 518 Walnut Street, ca. 1872. This four-story brick Victorian Eclectic building is presently in poor condition.
12. John W. German and Company, 520 Walnut Street, 1885. The first floor of this four-story brick commercial building has been altered. The upper two floors are a later addition.
13. Clemons and Mason Commission House (Kansas City Rescue Mission), 523 Walnut Street, 1891. This three-story brick building has had alterations of the first floor.
14. Evans-Douglas Fruit Co. (Wood N' Things), 525-527 Walnut Street, 1905, architects: Shepard and Farrar, builder: Benjamin Soper (attr). This two-story commercial brick building has been altered.
15. Scott Cromwell and Company (Nikos Lounge), 524-526-528 Walnut Street, 1893. This three-story brick commercial building has undergone some modernization. It is in good condition.
16. Tralle Saloon (Sammy's Produce Buffet), 529 Walnut Street, 1905, architects: Shepard and Farrar. This two-story brick commercial building has an angled corner entrance. It is in good condition.
19. Odd Fellows Building, 529 Main Street, 1884. This four-story brick Victorian Eclectic building is in good condition. It features intricate brick and stone work.
20. G. W. Jones Company (Index Store Fixture Company), 521 Main Street, ca. 1881. This three-story commercial brick building has had been modernized. It has lost its original integrity, but is in good condition.

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24. William Volker and Company, 200-220 Main Street and 6 West Third Street, ca. 1880, additions in 1914 and 1926, architects: Shepard, Farrar and Wiser, (1914). This is a complex of four commercial buildings. They are in good condition.
25. Chase Bag Co. (Columbia Sales Inc.), 200-206 Delaware Street, 1922, architect: Charles E. Smith. This irregularly shaped, four-story brick commercial building is in good condition.
27. W. B. Young Supply Company, 208-210 Delaware Street, 1905. This four-story commercial brick building is well maintained and in excellent condition.
28. Townley Metal Company, 218 Delaware Street, ca. 1890, builders: Schoen Brothers. This four-story brick Victorian Eclectic building features Diocletian windows and corbelled brick work.
29. Askew Saddlery Co., 213-223 Delaware Street, 1892. This six-story brick building is the tallest in the district. It retains its original integrity and is in good condition.
32. Police Garage (Miller-Cooper Ink Co.), 14 West Third Street, ca. 1899. This two-story brick building has had some changes in window treatment, but basically retains its integrity.
34. Peet Brothers Company (Poor Freddie's Restaurant), 301-305 Delaware Street, ca. 1881. This three-story brick building is in good condition and retains its original integrity.
35. Morgan Drug Co., 302-304 Delaware Street, ca. 1869. This four-story Italianate building is one of the earliest in the district. The semi-circular arched windows feature cast iron hood molds and sills. It still retains much of its original integrity and is in good condition.
36. J. M. Shelley and Co., 306-308 Delaware Street, ca. 1870. This three-story Italianate building has undergone alteration of its first floor facade. It still retains much of its original integrity and is in good condition.
37. Ebenezer Building, 309 Delaware Street, 1890. This five-story Chateausque style building is the most elaborately decorated building in the district. It contains much terra cotta decoration. It is in good condition and retains its original integrity.
38. Threlkelt and Co., 310 Delaware Street, ca. 1867. This three-story building is the oldest in the district. It is of Renaissance Revival, Romano-Tuscan mode design. The facade is limestone. The first floor facade has been modernized.
39. Graham Paper Company (Ebenezer Addition), 313 Delaware Street, ca. 1895. This four-story Victorian Eclectic building features decorative brick work. It retains much of its original integrity and is in good condition.
40. Gates and Kendall Co., 312-314 Delaware Street, ca. 1873. The facade of this three-story brick building has been completely altered.

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41. J. P. Campbell and Co. (Delaware Daddy's), 315-317 Delaware Street, ca. 1874. This two-story commercial brick building has been altered, but the original cast iron columns are still visible.
45. Pacific House Hotel, 401 Delaware Street, 1868, architect: Asa B. Cross, builders: John and Robert Hall. This three-story building is a good example of the use of Renaissance Revival, Romano-Tuscan mode design. The first floor facade is of cast iron construction. the building retains its original integrity and is in good condition.
51. Tootle, Hanna and Leach Dry Goods Company and B. A. Feineman and Company, 412-414 Delaware Street, ca. 1869. This three-story brick building is one of the earliest in the district. It retains much of its original integrity and is in good condition.
52. Tootle, Hanna and Company (Metzner Stove & Furnace Co.), 413 Delaware Street, 1880. This three-story brick and stone building is the sole example of High Victorian Gothic design in the district. It is in good condition and retains its original integrity.
53. Tootle, Hanna and Co. (Sid's Warehouse), 415-417 Delaware Street, 1880. The facade of this four-story brick building has been completely altered. It was originally a High Victorian Italianate design.
54. McCord and Nave Grocery (Papa Nick's), 416-418 Delaware Street, ca. 1869. This three-story brick commercial building is one of the earliest in the district. It is in good condition and retains its original integrity.
57. W. C. Glass Co. (Jordis Silver Shop), 423 Delaware Street, ca. 1876. This three-story commercial building has been significantly altered. It is in good condition.
58. Western Medical and Surgical Institute, 429 Delaware Street, ca. 1874. This three-story corner building has had its first floor facade modernized. It is in good condition.
60. Kansas City Paper House, 507-509 Delaware Street, 1895, architects: VanBrunt & Howe, builders: Hollinger and Mitchell. This five-story brick commercial building has had a sixth floor removed and window alterations to the first floor.
61. Board of Trade Building, 502 Delaware Street, 1877, architect: A. J. Kelly, builders: Hollinger and Mitchell. This three-story High Victorian Italianate building has been greatly altered. It is one of the largest buildings in the district.
63. Bishop, Christie and Frame's Saloon (Western Printing Machine Works), 511 Delaware Street, ca. 1885. The facade of this three-story commercial structure has been completely altered.
65. Ennis-Hanly-Blackburn Coffee Company, 512-514-516 Delaware Street, 1904, architect: A. B. Fuller (1917), builder: A. Ohlesen (1904). This asymmetrical four-story commercial brick building retains much of its original integrity.

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67. Harrow-Taylor Butter Co. (Warner Photographic Studio), 517 Delaware Street, 1917, architects: Martling and Brandenburger, builder: Henry Lemken. This two-story building of tapestry brick design is in good condition. It retains its original integrity.
68. Ackerman-Quigley Litho Co., (National Furniture Company), 115 W. 5th Street, ca. 1905. This four-story commercial brick building is intact and in excellent condition.
70. Richards-Conover Hardware Co. (Three Little Pigs Barbeque), 501 Wyandotte Street, 1881. This four-story High Victorian Italianate building retains much of its original integrity even though the first floor has been modernized and the cornice removed.
71. Carlat and Sons (Index Store Fixture Co.), 525 Main Street, ca. 1886. This two-story commercial building has been modernized.

INTRUSIONS

Recent years have seen several major intrusions that conflict with the homogenous nature of the area. The street level facade alterations of many of the older structures in many cases could be returned to their natural appearance. Old views of many of these buildings showing their original cornices and street level treatment are available.

Nonconforming intrusions detracting from the integrity of the district (numbers refer to location on the site plan map):

5. Surfaced Parking Lot, 510-16 Walnut Street
11. 110 E. Missouri Avenue, brick, two-story building, good condition
17. 14 E. Main Street, ca. 1932. One-story, one-room structure. In poor condition
18. 12 E. Main Street, ca. 1932. One-story, one-room brick structure. In poor condition
21. Surfaced Parking Lot, 510-20 Main Street
22. Surfaced Parking Lot. Lots 165 through 169, Block 17, Old Town
23. Vacant Lots. Lots 150, 151, 152, Block 15 Old Town
26. Surfaced Parking Lot, 201 Delaware Street
30. Victoria Station Restaurant and surfaced parking lot, 100 W. Third Street
31. Parking Lot, W 24 ft lots 95 and 96, Blk 9 Old Town and E 48 ft of W 72 ft lots 95 and 96 Blk 9 Old Town
33. Vacant Lot, N 24 ft lot 188 Blk 19 Old Town
42. Vacant Lot, Bidwells sub, N. 19.5 ft. lot 4 and Bidwells sub S 40.5 ft lot 4

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43. Vacant Lot, W 20 ft of E 102 ft lot 190 S 5 ft of W 20 ft of E 120 ft lot 189 blk 19 and 55 ft of W 40 ft of E 122 ft lot 189 blk 19 W 20 ft of E 122 ft lot 190 blk 19 and W 20 ft lot 190 blk 19.
44. Vacant Lot, 400 Delaware Street
46. Vacant Lots, 402-04 Delaware Street
47. Vacant Lot, 404-408 Delaware Street
48. Concrete Block Garage, ca. 1960, 111 W. 4th Street
49. Vacant Lot, S 20 ft lot 173 blk 17 Old Town
50. Big Johns Restaurant and brick patio, 410 Delaware Street
55. Vacant Lot, S 20 ft lot 173 blk 17 Old Town
56. Landscaped Park, N 30 ft of W 85 ft of E 70 ft lot 179 Blk 18 Old Town and S 30 ft of W 85 ft of E 90 ft lot 179 blk 18 Old Town and W 52 ft lot 179 blk 18 Old Town
59. Vacant Lot, E 20 ft lot 170 Blk 17, Old Town and W 22 ft of 42 ft lot 170 Blk 17 Old Town and E 20 ft of W 100 ft of N 12.5 ft lot 170 blk 17 E 62 ft of S 10 ft lot 171 Blk 17 Old Town
62. Vacant Lot, N 8 ft of W 95 ft lot 199 Blk 20 W 95 ft lot 200 Blk 20 Old Town
64. Surfaced Courtyard, S 50 ft lot 244 by W of Delaware Street, blk 25 Old Town
66. Vacant Lot, A 22 ft of N 35 ft lot 198 Blk 20 Old Town
69. Surfaced Parking Lot, 115 W. Fifth Street

CONDITION

In general, the structures are sound. However, their future is precarious, for there is a low rate of occupancy and they are threatened by demolition and/or future redevelopment. The district as a whole is in fair condition.

PRESENT STATUS

The recent River Quay project was initially very successful in promoting the area as a small business, entertainment complex. The area attracted much public interest. During this period (1972-1975), many of the commercial buildings were refurbished and some landscaping was done. Currently, many of the buildings are vacant and only a few shops continue to do business in the area. Recent under-world activity and bombings in the area have greatly diminished public interest in the area.

FOOTNOTES

1. W. H. Miller, The History of Kansas City (Kansas City: Birdsall and Miller, 1881), p. 66.
2. 100 Years of the Kansas City Municipal Market (Kansas City: Department of Municipal Enterprises, City Hall, 1969), pp. 2-5.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Prominent Owners	

SPECIFIC DATES 1839 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Town Historic District in Kansas City, Missouri is significant historically for several reasons. It is the site of the original Kansas City and became an important early Missouri River landing site. The district represents an area that has seen continual commercial use since 1839. Included in the district are the sites of the original town square, city market, cemetery, and the original city and early county government buildings. A number of prominent historical personalities are associated with the district and the architecture remaining in the area represents an important era in Kansas City history.

The Old Town District was the birth place of present day Kansas City. It is the oldest part of the city, being the site of the incorporation of the Town of Kansas and encompassing all of the original plat of "Old Town," the first plat in the city. In 1821 Francois Chouteau built a warehouse on the south bank of the Missouri River, between Independence and Kansas City. When a flood destroyed the warehouse in 1826, he relocated at the foot of today's Grand Avenue. Just west of his post was a rock ledge used as a natural landing for river traffic.<sup>1</sup> This landing was widely utilized by merchants from the Town of Westport, four miles to the south, and became known as "Westport Landing." The actual landing and surrounding land was owned by Gabriel Prudhomme. He died in 1838; the year he received the 150 acres as part of a government grant. The land was then subdivided and sold at public auction for \$1800. The auction was declared void because the purchaser was an agent for the court-appointed guardian of the Prudhomme children. In November, 1838 the land was resold to a company of fourteen men for \$4220, surveyed, laid off into lots and called the "Town of Kansas." Litigation over the land continued, but was settled in 1846 and the Town Company began selling lots. By April over a hundred lots had been sold and the rapid growth of the town began. By 1847 the population was seven hundred.<sup>2</sup> The County Court of Jackson County incorporated the "Town of Kansas" in 1850. Its first formal charter was obtained from the Missouri legislature in 1853, in which it was called the "City of Kansas."<sup>3</sup> Little growth occurred in the city during the Civil War years, but the war was felt deeply by the citizens. From October, 1861 until May, 1865, the Pacific House Hotel at 401 Delaware (site no. 45) was transformed into military barracks for Union Troops. General Thomas Ewing issued the infamous "Order No. 11" from the hotel, forcing Jackson County residents to abandon their homes and fields if they refused allegiance to the government. After the war, the hotel continued to be an immensely popular establishment for many years, and was often referred to as the "Palatial Pacific."<sup>4</sup>

The Missouri River is a significant but hidden feature of the area. The river was Kansas City's raison d'etre and was responsible for the early growth of the

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OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

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city. Not until the first train crossed the new Hannibal Bridge on July 13, 1869, did Kansas City's importance as a river city begin to decline and its emergence as a rail center begin.<sup>5</sup> One of the earliest paths of access to the river was Grand Avenue. There is currently no easily accessible place to view the river nor any means of linking the river with the rest of the area.

The area has a continual history of commercial use since the first merchant, Thomas Smart, established himself at the landing in 1839.<sup>6</sup> Because of its relative isolation, some of the earlier structures from the area have survived and the district retains the flavor of the Nineteenth century. The J. M. Shelley Building of ca. 1870 is at 306-308 Delaware (site no. 36). This was an early dry good establishment. George Shelley, the son of J. M. Shelley, became one of Kansas City's most prominent citizens, holding the offices of Mayor, postmaster, and police commissioner. He continued the dry goods business and was referred to as the "Merchant of Delaware Street."<sup>7</sup> At 502 Delaware is the Board of Trade Building, built in 1877 (site no. 61). This was the home of the Kansas City Board of Trade and one of the most important buildings in the district. The Board was active in promoting the growth of the city. When the Board moved to larger quarters, the building saw use as a bank.<sup>8</sup> At 301 Delaware (site no. 34) was located the offices of the Peet Brothers Soap Manufacturing Company. Peet Brothers later merged with the Colgate-Palmolive Company.<sup>9</sup> The area has been able to continue as a warehouse district with little redevelopment. Until about 1851, only the levee was occupied for business purposes and the remaining area was residential. As the business district grew, residences were driven outside its limits. Narrow Main Street, lying in a hollow, became the focus of business until Delaware Street took over due to its advantage of being wider and more level.<sup>10</sup>

The site of the present market (site no. 1), bounded by Main, Walnut, Fourth, and Fifth Street, was originally donated to the city in 1846 "for public use forever" by the pioneer Gillis Family as a public square. The square was included in the plat of 1846. In April, 1857 the City Council leased part of the square to the Scheibel Brothers for \$50 yearly rent and allowed them to erect a market building. The square has been the site of a market ever since.<sup>11</sup> In October, 1856, the City Council enacted an ordinance authorizing the construction of a City Hall and market house on the public square. This was the first of three market buildings to be erected on the site. For nearly forty years, the entire town revolved around the market. Hotels and business houses were jammed around the edge of the square facing the market.<sup>12</sup> In 1906 the city bought additional land adjacent to the old square and a farmer's market was built in 1910. In 1931 the city voted bonds to provide modern market facilities. Both the old public market and the farmer's market of 1910 were demolished and a new market was constructed in 1940. Further expansion occurred in 1948 and in 1971 when a new shed was constructed to accommodate out-of-town truckers along the east side of Walnut between Third and Fifth Streets.<sup>13</sup>



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In pioneer days, the market was jammed with Indian fighters, trappers and traders. Wagon trains also stopped there to get supplies for journeys over the Santa Fe Trail. Merchants in the early days, as today, sought to increase the number of shoppers and their purchases. One method which drew enormous crowds were the balloon ascensions, with either parachute drops or trapeze performers suspended below the balloons. Local entertainment also helped attract crowds to the market area. On the southwest corner of Fourth and Walnut was the Theatre Comique, now demolished. Among its featured entertainment were burlesque shows and men and women wrestlers. On the southwest corner of Fifth and Walnut, across from the market was the Gillis Opera House, now replaced with a newer building, (site no. 3), where plays and concerts were presented.<sup>14</sup> A popular restaurant was located at 507 Walnut (site no. 7). Horton's Oyster and Chop House made a speciality of oysters.<sup>15</sup>

The original town cemetery was located on Independence Avenue from Oak to Locust. From 1847-1857 it was the only graveyard in Kansas City. In the 1870s during George M. Shelley's term as mayor, he decided to turn the cemetery into a park. He had the bodies moved, the ground leveled and beautified, and the square became known as Shelley Park.<sup>16</sup>

The public square was also the seat of city and county government from 1857-1937. The first City Hall was built on the northwest corner of the public square, at Fourth and Main in 1857. The second City Hall was constructed on the same site, in 1892, against much public protest, and occupied the west half of the square.<sup>17</sup> During its construction, city offices were scattered in rented locations throughout the business district. In 1910 an addition to the City Hall and a fire station were added to the south. These were demolished in 1938 when city government moved out of the Old Town District to a new building at Twelfth and Oak.<sup>18</sup>

The first courthouse in the area was originally begun as a hotel in 1868 at Second and Main Streets. When money ran out before construction was finished, it was taken over as the County Courthouse. A cyclone destroyed the building in 1886 and temporary quarters were rented in the building at the southwest corner of Fourth and Delaware and later in the Board of Trade Building. A second courthouse opened in 1892 at Missouri and Oak Streets. This building rather rapidly became antiquated, unsafe, and most of all, inconvenient.<sup>19</sup> However, it was not replaced until the present Jackson County Courthouse was built at Twelfth and Oak in 1934.<sup>20</sup>

Many personalities of national prominence were associated with the Old Town District. By 1875 the City of Kansas had become a capital of western cowtowns. Familiar figures on the streets of the area were Wild Bill Hickok, Wyatt Earp, Bat

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Masterson, and Doc Holliday.<sup>21</sup> Around 1884 Frederick Remington was a silent partner in Bishop and Christy's Saloon at 119 West Sixth (now demolished). He spent his time there painting until he was discovered by the art dealer William Findlay at the age of twenty-three. George Caleb Bingham moved to Kansas City in 1870 to make his permanent home. He had a studio at 302 Main (no longer extant) where he painted his last copy of Order No. 11 on a linen table cloth.<sup>22</sup> When in Kansas City, Jesse James made his home at the Doggett House, a family hotel located on West Sixth Street between Walnut Street and Grand Avenue (demolished).<sup>23</sup> Early Kansas City newspapers had their start in the Old Town District. William Rockhill Nelson founded the Kansas City Star at 115 West Sixth Street (now demolished).<sup>24</sup> Eugene Field, the poet and newspaper man, worked for the Kansas City Times and was named managing editor in 1880. In 1871 the Times was located on Fourth Street between Main and Delaware Streets, and its growth resulted in a move in 1878 to Fifth Street between Main and Delaware Streets. Both the Times' buildings have since been demolished.<sup>25</sup>

By the 1870s the population had grown so that the city was reaching south. The railroads had essentially replaced river commerce. The flood of 1903 encouraged even more businesses to rebuild further south out of the reaches of the river. The residential population of the area declined and the district became essentially industrial as well as a center for prostitution and gambling. A long period of subsistence began for the area. For over sixty years, it served as a low-rent area with cheap hotels, bars, rooming houses interspersed among its warehouses. Brief attempts were made to revitalize the area in the 1920s and 1940s, but no great change was noted.<sup>26</sup> The late 1960s thru 1970s were a period of resurgence of interest in renovation and restoration of old neighborhoods, and the Old Town District has briefly benefited from this phenomena.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan." The Old Town Historic District is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture," "Fine Arts and Humanities," "Economics," "Exploration and Settlement," "Technology," "Urban Design," "Military Affairs," "Political Affairs," and "Society."

FOOTNOTES

1. W. H. Miller, The History of Kansas City (Kansas City: Birdsall and Miller, 1881), pp. 10-20.
2. Ibid., pp. 28-31 and 40-42.

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3. Roy Ellis, A Civic History of Kansas City, Missouri (Springfield, Missouri: Elkins-Swyers Co., 1930), p. 50.
4. "First Big Hotel Closed," Kansas City Star, 24 August 1913, sec. A, p. 6.
5. Miller, The History of Kansas City, p. 122.
6. Jessie C. Ragan, "Kansas City's Centennial Year Begins Tomorrow," Kansas City Star, 13 November 1938, sec. C, p. 2.
7. "Starts Life Anew at 61," Kansas City Star, 15 June 1910, p. 12.
8. "A Landmark Houses 800," Kansas City Times, 19 December 1914, p. 6.
9. "Producing Soap for 'Hardwater' Region Means Big Expansion for Colgate-Palmolive-Peet," Kansas City Star, 17 March 1946, sec. D, p. 7.
10. Theodore Case, History of Kansas City, Missouri (Syracuse, New York: D. Mason, 1888), pp. 16-17.
11. "New Market Plans In," Kansas City Star, 27 June 1937, sec. A, p. 5.
12. Alice Sebree, "An Early Morning Visit to the City Market," Kansas City Star, 31 August 1941, sec. C, p. 9.
13. 100 Years of the Kansas City Municipal Market (Kansas City: Department of Municipal Enterprises, City Hall, Fourth Floor, 1969), p. 5.
14. Sebree, "Morning Visit," sec. C., p. 9.
15. Pen and Sunlight Sketches of Kansas City and Environs (Chicago: Phoenix Publishing Co., 1892), p. 160.
16. W. J. Ward, History of the Square Between Oak and Locust Streets and Missouri Avenue and Independence Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri (Kansas City: Woody Printers, 1885 (?)).
17. "City Hall 30 Years Old," Kansas City Times, 24 October 1922, p. 5.
18. George Fuller Green, A Condensed History of the Kansas City Area (Kansas City: The Lowell Press, 1968), pp. 38-40.

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19. "The Story of Kansas City's Court Houses," Kansas City Star, 7 March 1926, sec. D, p. 10.
20. A. B. McDonald, "The New Court House Amazes," Kansas City Star, 16 September 1934, sec. C, p. 1.
21. Darrell Garwood, Crossroads of America: The Story of Kansas City (New York: W. W. Norton and Co., 1948), p. 125.
22. "Blazed a Trail for Art," Kansas City Times, 1 January 1924, p. 22.
23. Kansas City Public Library, Missouri Valley Room, clipping file (Hotels; Early History), Post, August 3, 1928.
24. Case, History of Kansas City, p. 130.
25. Carrie Westlake Whitney, Kansas City, Missouri: Its History and Its People, 1808-1908 (Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1908), Vol. I, pp. 377-380.
26. "Tour a Dreary Zone," Kansas City Star, 5 August 1948.

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3. Building Permits, Building Permit Office, 18th Floor, City Hall, Kansas City, Missouri.
4. Case, Theodore. History of Kansas City, Missouri. Syracuse, New York: D. Mason, 1888.
5. Historic Building Preservation Analysis, Kansas City, Missouri Downtown Plan. Kansas City, Missouri: Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority, 1973.
6. Miller, W. H. The History of Kansas City. Kansas City: Birdsall and Miller, 1881.
7. Pen and Sunlight Sketches of Greater Kansas City. Kansas City, American Illustrating Co., 1914 (?).
8. Pen and Sunlight Sketches of Kansas City and Environs. Chicago: Phoenix Publishing Co., 1892.
9. The Industries of Kansas City. Kansas City: Ramsey, Millet, and Hudson, 1879.
10. Ward, W. J. History of the Square Between Oak and Locust Streets, and Missouri Avenue and Independence Avenue in Kansas City, Mo. Kansas City: Woody Printer, 1885 (?).
11. Water Permits. Water Permit Office, 5th Floor, City Hall, Kansas City, Missouri.
12. Whiffen, Marcus. American Architecture Since 1780: A Guide to the Styles. Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1969.
13. Whitney, Carrie Westlake. Kansas City: Its History and Its People, 1808-1908. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1908, Vol. I.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "Annual Review," Kansas City (Missouri) Times, 10 January 1876, pp. 1-8.
2. Brown, Helena. "The Heart of Things . . . River Quay." Wednesday Magazine, 12 July 1972, pp. 1 and 18.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 26.32 (10.655 hectares)

### UTM REFERENCES

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 1,5	3,6,3 2,5,0	4,3 3,0 1,0,0
B 1,5	3,6,3 3,4,0	4,3 2,9 7,4,0
C 1,5	3,6,2 9,7,0	4,3 2,9 6,4,0
D 1,5	3,6,2 8,7,0	4,3 3,0 0,0,0

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The district is bounded on the east by the east curb line of Wyandotte Street from Independence Avenue extending north to the southeast corner of West Fifth and Wyandotte Streets. The boundary thence extends northeast along the south curb of West Fifth Street to a point aligned to the east side of an alley between Delaware and Wyandotte Streets. From this point, the boundary extends northwest along the east side of the alley running between Delaware and Wyandotte

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sherry Piland, Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Landmarks Commission of Kansas City, Missouri

DATE

May 11, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

26th Floor East, City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street

TELEPHONE

(816) 274-2555

CITY OR TOWN

Kansas City

STATE

Missouri 64106

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ☐

STATE ☐

LOCAL ☒

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director, Department of Natural Resources,  
and State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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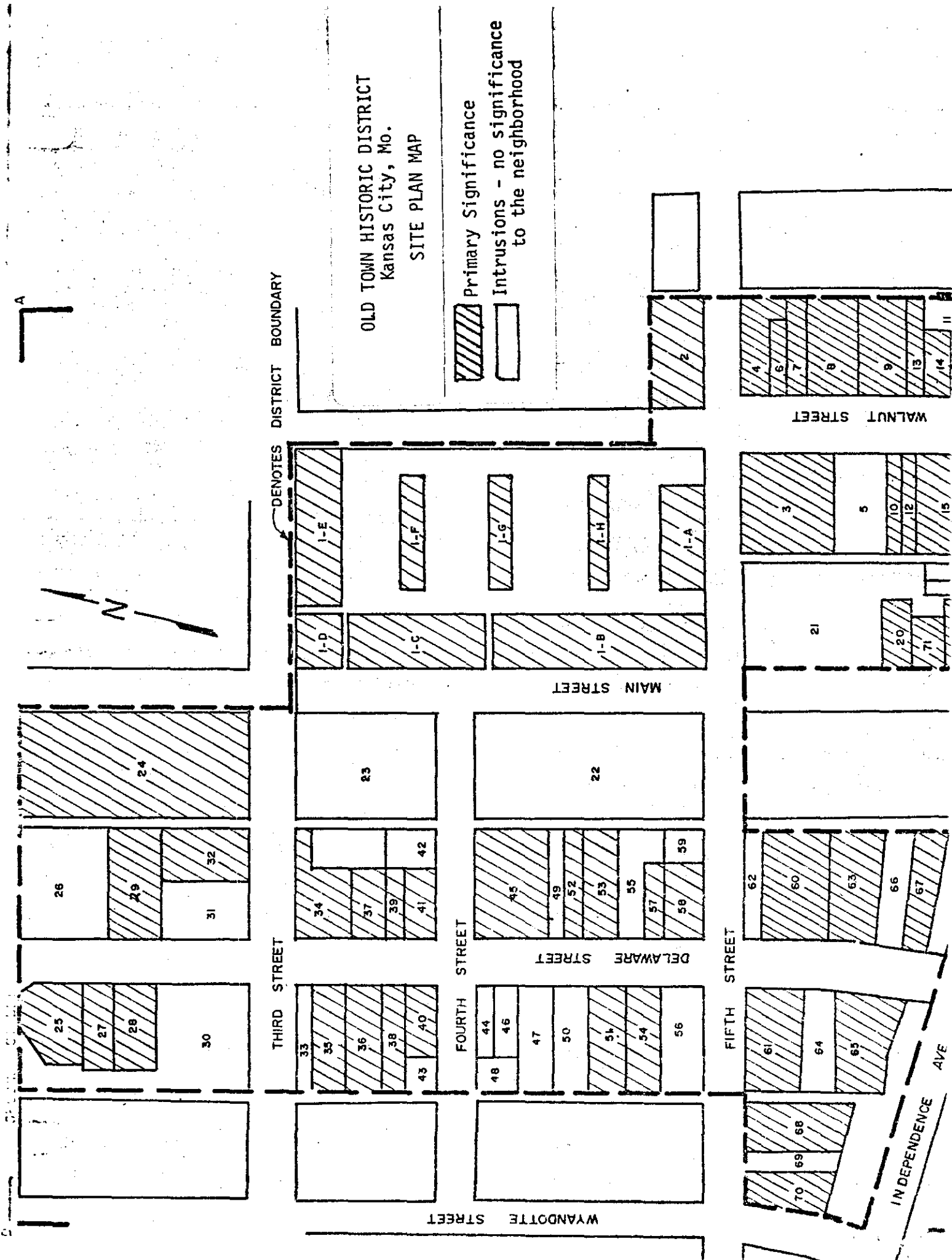
Streets, extending northwest to the south curb line of West Second Street. Thence it continues northeast along the south curb line of Second Street to the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and West Second Streets. Thence it extends south along the east side of Main to the southwest corner of the intersection of West Third and Main Street. From this point, the boundary extends northeast along the south curb line of East Third Street to the southwest corner of Third and Walnut Streets. Thence the boundary extends southeast along the west curb line of Walnut Street to a point approximately 22 feet north of the north curb line of East Fifth Street. From this point, the boundary extends northeast along the rear property line of site #2 until it reaches the west side of an alley between Walnut and Grand Avenue. The boundary then extends southeast along the west side of an alley to the north curb line of Missouri Avenue. Thence it extends southwest along the north curb of Missouri Avenue to the northeast corner of Missouri Avenue and Main Street. It then extends northwest along the east curb of Main Street to the southeast corner of the intersection of Main and East Fifth. Thence it extends southwest along the south curb line of West Fifth Street to a point equivalent to the west side of an alley between Main and Delaware. It then extends southeast along the west side of the alley until it reaches the north curb line of Independence Avenue. Thence it extends west along the north curb line of Independence until it adjoins to the point of origin.



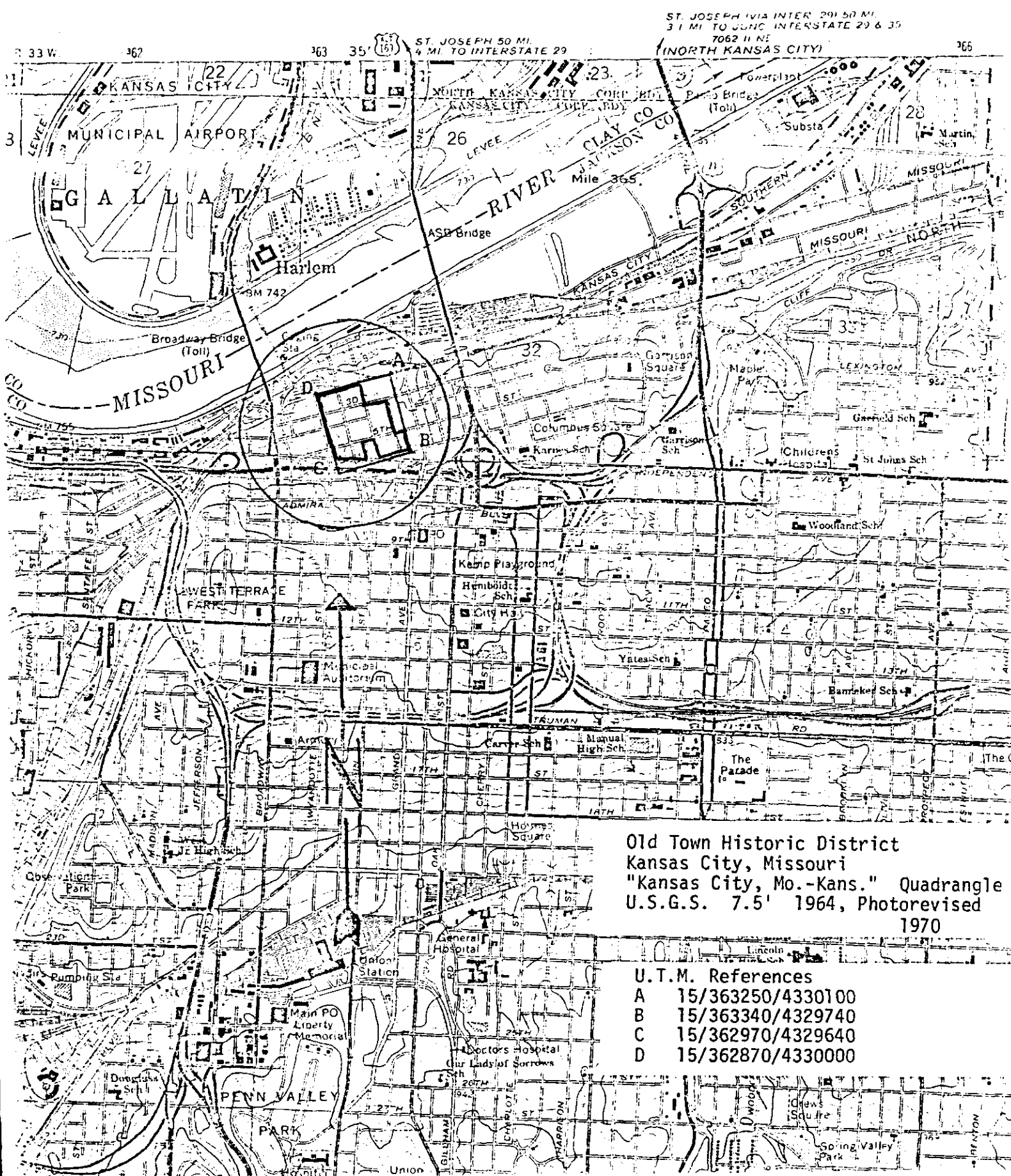
OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Kansas City, Mo.  
SITE PLAN MAP

Primary Significance  
Intrusions - no significance  
to the neighborhood

DENOTES DISTRICT BOUNDARY







ST. JOSEPH VIA INTER. 291.50 MI.  
3.1 MI. TO JUNC. INTERSTATE 29 & 35  
7062 H NE  
(NORTH KANSAS CITY)

Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Missouri  
"Kansas City, Mo.-Kans." Quadrangle  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' 1964, Photorevised  
1970

- U.T.M. References
- A 15/363250/4330100
  - B 15/363340/4329740
  - C 15/362970/4329640
  - D 15/362870/4330000

## OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

COUNTY: Jackson

LOCATION: Kansas City

OWNER: Multiple Ownership

ADDRESS:

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: July 15, 1977

DATE SENT TO D.C.: October 25, 1977

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: October 28, 1977

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: June 7, 1978

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED  
(AND PRESENTOR): December 6, 1979  
Mayor Richard Berkley

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

The Old Town Historic District in Kansas City, Missouri is significant historically for several reasons. It is the site of the original Kansas City and became an important early Missouri River landing site. The district represents an area that has seen continual commercial use since 1839. Included in the district are the sites of the original town square, city market, cemetery, and the original city and early county government buildings. A number of prominent historical personalities are associated with the district and the architecture remaining in the area represents an important era in Kansas City history.

Old Town District  
Kansas City, Missouri  
photographer: Sherry Piland  
Feb. 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission  
City Hall - 26th Floor, East  
414 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

West side of Delaware Street, 300 block.  
View looking northwest. View shows,  
from left to right: 312/314 Delaware  
Street (site #40), 310 Delaware Street  
(site #38), 306/308 Delaware Street  
(site #36), and 302/304 Delaware Street  
(site #35). At the extreme right is  
218 Delaware Street (site #28).

22



Old Town District  
Kansas City, Missouri  
photographer: Sherry Piland  
Feb. 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission  
City Hall - 26th Floor, East  
414 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

Northwest corner of Third Street and  
Delaware Street, showing 100 W. Third  
Street (site #30). View looking  
northwest





Old Town District  
Kansas City, Missouri  
photographer: Sherry Piland  
Feb. 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission  
City Hall - 26th Floor, East  
414 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

West side of Delaware Street, 400 block.  
View looking northwest. View shows  
from left to right: 416/418 Delaware  
Street (site #54), 412/414 Delaware

Street (site #51), and 410 Delaware  
Street (site #50).





Old Town District  
Kansas City, Missouri  
photographer: Sherry Piland  
Feb. 1978

Kansas City Landmarks Commission  
City Hall, 26th Floor, East  
414 E. 12th Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106

East side of Delaware Street, 300 and  
400 blocks. View looking northeast.  
View shows, from extreme left to right:  
301/305 Delaware Street (site #34),  
315/317 Delaware Street (site #41), 401

Delaware Street (site #45), 413 Delaware  
Street (site #52), 415/417 Delaware  
Street (site #53), 423 Delaware Street  
(site #57), and 429 Delaware Street  
(site #58).



1  
Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Jackson County  
Sherry Piland - Jan. 1977  
Landmarks Commission

J. M. Shelley and Co., Dry Goods,  
306-308 Delaware St. (site #36)  
view looking northwest; view  
shows east facade



Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Jackson Co.  
Sherry Piland - Jan. 1977  
Landmarks Commission  
Morgan Drug Company  
302-304 Delaware Street  
(site #35) view looking southwest;  
view shows east facade.





3  
Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Jackson Co.  
Sherry Piland - Jan. 1977  
Landmarks Commission

East side of the 500 block of Walnut St.  
view looking northeast; view shows from  
left to right: Horton's Oyster & Chop House,  
507 Walnut St. (site #7); Swope Building,  
509-13 Walnut St. (site #8); view shows  
west facade.





4  
Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Jackson Co.  
Sherry Piland - Jan. 1977  
Landmarks Commission

Pacific House Hotel  
401 Delaware Street (site #45)  
view looking southeast; view  
shows north facade on the left,  
west facade on the right.



Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Jackson Co.  
Sherry Piland - Jan. 1977  
Landmarks Commission  
Odd Fellows Building  
'529 Main Street (site #19)  
view looking northwest;  
view shows south facade.'



Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Jackson Co.  
Sherry Piland - Jan. 1977  
Landmarks Commission

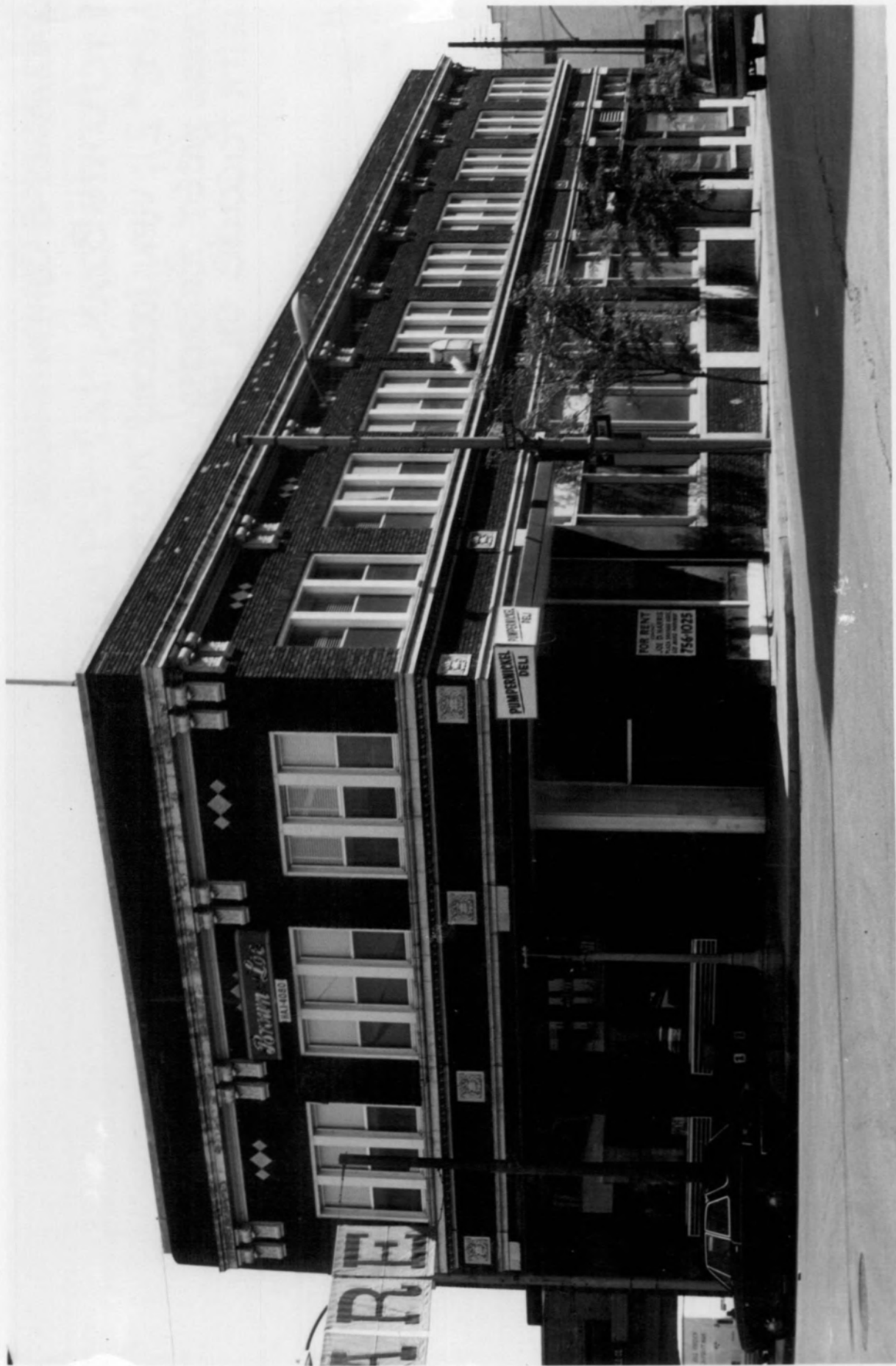
East side of the 300 block of  
Delaware St.; view looking northeast;  
view from left shows west facades  
of Ebenezer Building, 309 Delaware St.  
(site\*37); Ebenezer Addition, 313 Delaware St.  
(site\*39); J.P. Campbell and Co., 315-317 Delaware  
St. (site\*41).





7.  
Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Jackson Co.  
Sherry Pilboud - Jan, 1977  
Landmarks Commission

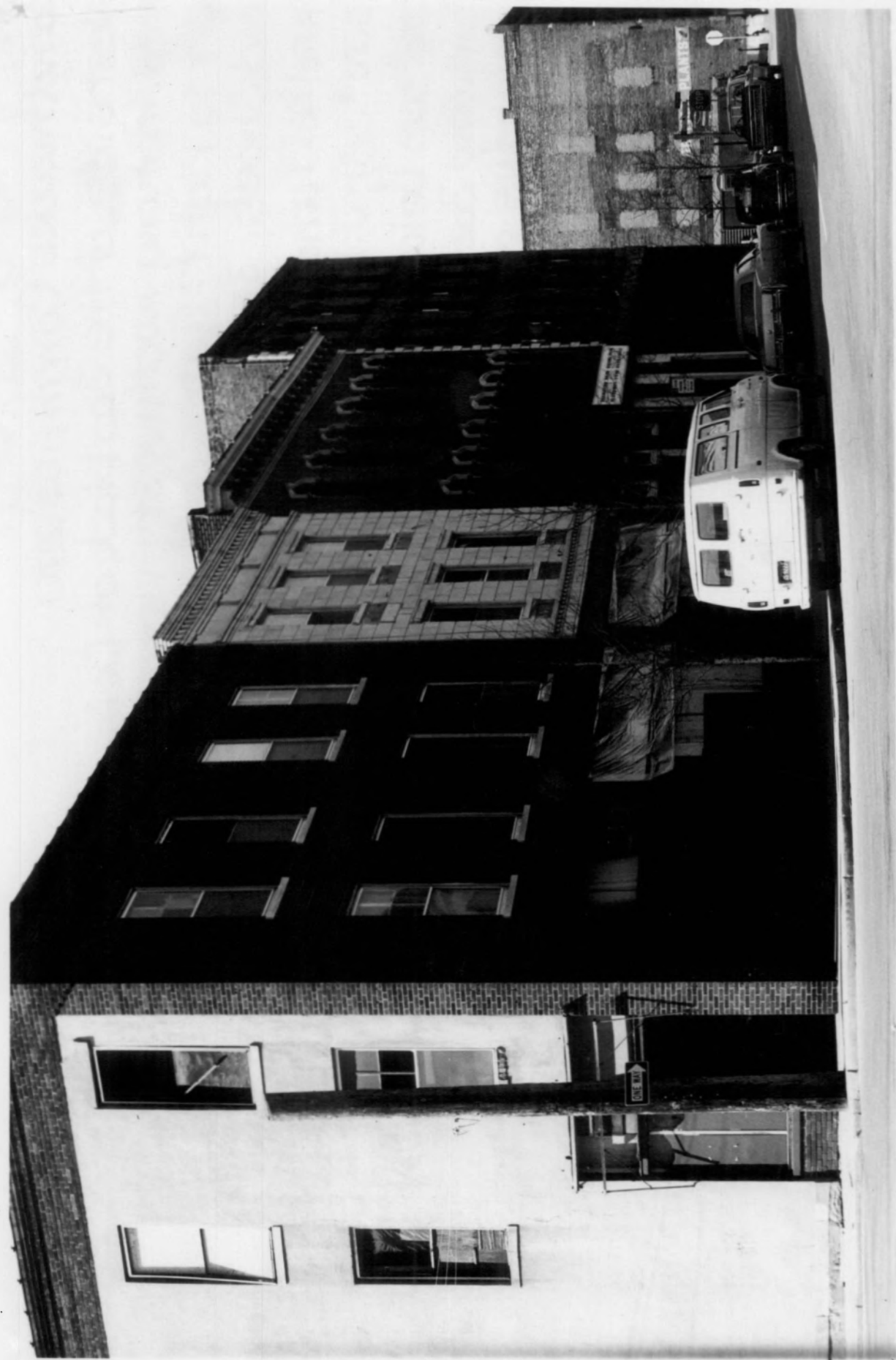
Merchants Bank, 427-429 Walnut St.  
(site # 2); view looking northeast; view  
shows west facade on the left &  
south facade on the right.





Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Jackson Co.  
Sherry Pilbald - Jan. 1977  
Landmarks Commission

West side of the 300 block of Delaware;  
view looking northwest; view shows from  
left to right: Gates and Kendall, Boots  
and Shoes, 312-314 Delaware St. (site # 40);  
Threlkeld and Co., Grocery, 310 Delaware St.  
(site # 38); J. M. Shelley and Co., Dry Goods,  
306-308 Delaware St. (site # 36); Morgan Drug  
Company 302-304 Delaware Street (site # 35);  
view shows east facade.



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Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Jackson Co.  
Sherry Pland - Jan. 1977  
Landmarks Commission  
City Market, North Wholesale Building,  
Third Street, Main to Walnut Streets  
(site 1E); view looking southeast;  
view shows north facade.



Old Town Historic District  
Kansas City, Jackson Co

10 x 6 1/2



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